control at every stage. However, it has been observed that the cost of production of coins of lower denominations is generally higher than their face value in most other countries also.

**Merger of the office of CCI&E with Ministry of External Affairs**

755. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to merge the Office of the Chief Controller of Imports & Exports (CCI&E) with the Ministry of External Affairs; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Removal of cloves from OGL**

756. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any suggestion for removing cloves from the Open General Licence (OGL); and

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) Suggestion for change in the Import Policy for cloves has been received and is under consideration.

**Removal of caustic soda from OGL**

757. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal for removing caustic soda from OGL is pending with his Ministry; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for delaying a decision in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) Suggestion for change in the import policy for caustic soda has been revived and is under consideration in consultation with concerned Departments.

**Indian Gold in the Custody of Lisbon Bank**

758. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantum with value of Indian gold in the custody of Lisbon Bank (Banco Nationale Ultramarino) confiscated by the Portugese Government in 1961;

(b) what is the extent of claim made by Government including the interest thereon and when was it made; and

(c) what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The quantum of gold ornaments in the custody of Banco National Ultramarino (BNU), Lisbon is 280532 grams; its present value is estimated at Rs. 5.44 crores approximately. A claim for return of these Gold Ornaments was made by the State Bank of India in 1982 with the BNU, Lisbon.

(c) The matter is being pursued with the Portuguese Authorities through diplomatic channels.